

GALERIE RÜDIGER SCHÖTTLER

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Exhibition

Rafal Bujnowski Stefan Rinck

November 4 – December 12, 2006
Opening reception: November 3, 7 – 9 pm

Born in Wadowice, Poland, in 1974 and meanwhile one of the established representatives of the young Polish art scene, **Rafal Bujnowski** will be showing new works that have as their theme, among other things, the working process of an ancient handicraft, basket weaving. In Bujnowski's paintings, the process of basket weaving is transferred to the canvas. The painting emphasizes the clear, simple patterns and the tactile quality of the material. The painting process is documented on film. A commonplace object is celebrated; a solid handicraft becomes the theme and subject matter of art. Bujnowski deliberately confuses the genres, calling in question both our own expectations of painting and what painting itself seeks to achieve.

Commonplace objects have featured in Bujnowski's work before: such objects as bricks, video cassettes or even a photograph of the Pope, which he then depicted in serial fashion. Reflection on reality and perception is the basic conceptual approach of Bujnowski's painting. Another new project – "Testing Areas" – was realized in a paint shop in Krakow, where artists would try out the paints before they bought them. For this project, which lasted 6 months, Bujnowski placed canvases at the artists' disposal. By the end of the project, the canvases were completely covered with colourful strokes and daubs.



Stefan Rinck, born in Homburg/Saar in 1973 and one of the most recent discoveries in the history of sculpture, studied sculpture under Stefan Balkenhol and today lives in Berlin. His sandstone sculptures are reminiscent of figures from a mediaeval bestiary or of the gargoyles on cathedral roofs and towers that served to chase away evil spirits and demons. Rinck, who also studied German literature, art history and philosophy, finds his sources of inspiration in various epochs of art, in mythology and in the worlds of make-believe, humorously and imaginatively combining them with contemporary, comic-like imagery. At first glance, his roughly hewn stelae look like archaeological findings from a bygone age, until, that is, we recognize the humour behind them and their subtle combination with elements, for example, of the formal language of the 1970s. The forthcoming exhibition shows the more recent works of Stefan Rinck and offers visitors an excursion through his own personal fairy tale world, from minnesong to Maya the Bee, from Sherlock Holmes to the "Big Bad Wolf".